

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /083 W

----- 073707

R 311220Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4968

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 12594

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN/MORROCCAN RELATIONS

1. DURING AUDIENCE DECEMBER 30 SHAH MENTIONED THAT HE HAD SENT MINISTER OF COURT ASSADOLLAH ALAM TO MOROCCO ON HIS WAY BACK FROM A VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE. THE SHAH IS CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT ALGERIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD THE SPANISH SAHARA PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF REPORTS THAT THE ALGERIANS AND THE LIBYANS MAY MAKE COMMON CAUSE IN THE AREA. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON THE STABILITY OF KING HASSAN'S POSITION, THE SHAH SAID THAT MOROCCO IS EXPERIENCING A STATE OF "EUPHORIA" AND THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE THE KING'S HOLD ON HIS PEOPLE DURING THIS PERIOD IS STRONG. THE SHAH WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE CONTINUES TO RECOMMEND TO HASSAN A VARIETY OF SOCIAL REFORMS AND FEELS THAT PERHAPS THE KING HAS MODIFIED HIS AUTOCRATIC TENDENCIES SOMEWHAT AND "WORKS AN HOUR OR TWO LONGER ON THE AVERAGE". THE SHAH PHILOSOPHIZES, "THINGS ARE A LITTLE BETTER IN MOROCCO THESE DAYS, BUT WHAT DO
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YOU DO WITH A MAN WHO GOES ON BELIEVING THAT HE IS THE 'SON

OF THE PROPHET' "?

2. MINISTER OF COURT ALAM WAS ACCOMPANIED TO RABAT BY MOHAMMAD JAFAR BEHBEHANIAN, THE SHAH'S FINANCIAL ADVISER IN MATTERS CONCERNING THE IMPERIAL COURT. WE HAD HAD ONE REPORT THAT BEHBEHANIAN HAD GONE ALONG ON THE STRIP, BECAUSE THE SHAH WANTED TO INVEST IN MOROCCAN REAL ESTATE. WHEN I ASKED THE SHAH IF THIS WERE TRUE, HE REPLIED, "NOT AT ALL. IT IS JUST THE OTHER WAY AROUND. KING HASSAN WANTS TO INVEST IN IRAN. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF PLACING MONEY IN MOROCCO."

3. NOTHING IN FOREGOING WOULD SEEM TO CUT ACROSS CONTENTS OF RABAT 6268 WHICH ARRIVED AFTER DRAFTING OF THIS TELEGRAM.
HELMS

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NNN

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